

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CPR-02 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 SS-20

USIA-15 PRS-01 /082 R

DRAFTED BY:AF/W:CLDARIS

APPROVED BY:AF:CGROSS

S/CPR:WCDUS

AF/W:ORAGGREY

NSC-MR HORAN

TASK FORCE:SHAMRICK

S/CPR:JGILBAULT

S/S:MR GAMMO

AF/W:AMBASSADOR ROOT

----- 121547

R 310153Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 214284

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP, IV, (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX),

SUBJ: HOUPHOUET VISIT: EXCHANGE OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO
PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY: BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESI-
DENT:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR WARM MESSAGE SENT JUST PRIOR
TO YOUR DEPARTURE FROM OUR SHORES. I TOO WAS GRATIFIED
WITH THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAD. I KNOW THAT YOU SHARE MY
FERVENT HOPE THAT THE STEPS TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST WHICH HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED AS OF THIS MOMENT WILL PROVE
SUCCESSFUL.

MRS. NIXON AND I WERE VERY TOUCHED BY YOUR KIND WORDS. WE
FEEL THAT OUR CHARMING AND GRACIOUS IVORIAN GUESTS MADE OUR
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OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES PARTICULARLY DELIGHTFUL EX-

PERIENCES.

FINALLY SHOULD I REALIZE MY HOPE TO TRAVEL TO AFRICA, I
WILL KEEP IN MIND YOUR GRACIOUS INVITATION TO VISIT IVORY
COAST.

PLEASE ACCEPT AND CONVEY TO MRS. HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WARM
REGARDS FROM MRS. NIXON AND ME. SINCERELY RICHARD NIXON.
END TEXT.

2. WHITE HOUSE HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. BEGIN TEXT:
DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: DURING THE OFFICIAL TRIP WHICH I JUST
MADE IN YOUR GREAT AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY YOU PROVIDED
ME EXCEPTIONAL TRAVEL CONDITIONS AND BESTOWED UPON MY WIFE
UPON THE DELEGATION THAT ACCOMPANIED ME, AND UPON MYSELF
SUCH GRACIOUS AND THOUGHTFUL COURTESIES AS TO MAKE US FEEL
THRILLED AND DELIGHTED.

IN SO DOING, YOU UNDOUBTEDLY WISHED TO PROVIDE US TANGIBLE
PROOF OF YOUR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR IVORY COAST AND
FOR MYSELF. IN THAT, WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE.

AS I PREPARE TO LEAVE THE UNITED STATES, A COUNTRY TO
WHICH WE ARE LINKED BY BONDS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND, I DARE
SAY, RECIPROCAL FRIENDSHIP, I CANNOT BUT FEEL COMPELLED
TO REITERATE TO YOU MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR PROVIDING US
AN OPPORTUNITY--AND FOR DOING IT SO COURTEOUSLY--TO IM-
PROVE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WHO ARE A
MODEL OF AN OPEN DEMOCRACY, AND OUR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR
INESTIMABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRESS OF MANKIND
THROUGH THE HIGH CALIBER OF THEIR LEADERS AND THEIR
CREATIVE DYNAMISM. ALLOW ME, MR. PRESIDENT, TO EMPHASIZE
HOW HIGHLY IMPRESSED I WAS BY THE VERY FRANK AND OPEN DIS-
CUSSIONS I HAD WITH YOU. I LEFT MY MEETINGS WITH YOU
DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT YOU ARE TRULY AND CONSTANTLY WORKING
FOR INTERNATIONAL DETENTE AND TO RESTORE PEACE WHEREVER
IT IS THREATENED OR IMPERILED. THEREFORE, MR. PRESIDENT,
PLEASE ACCEPT THE RENEWED EXPRESSION OF MY FRIENDLY
ADMIRATION. MY ADMIRATION ALSO GOES TO MRS. NIXON, WHOSE
SMILING DIGNITY AND EXQUISITE KINDNESS INSPIRE RESPECT.
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MY WIFE JOINS ME WITH PLEASURE IN SENDING HER OUR RESPECT-
FUL GREETINGS. LASTLY, I PARTICULARLY WITH TO EMPHASIZE
HOW MUCH ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN WHOM YOU APPOINTED TO
ASSIST US ENDEAVORED TO MAKE OUR TRIP INTERESTING AND
PLEASANT. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHY WE ARE
SO EAGER TO EXPRESS PUBLICLY OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO THEM.

I AM DEEPLY CONVINCED THAT THE FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS WHICH

I HAVE JUST COMPLETED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT
AND BUSINESS WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE WELL-ESTABLISHED
COOPERATION EXISTING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

THE OFFICIAL TRIP I HAVE JUST MADE IN THE GREAT COUNTRY
OVER WHICH YOU PRESIDE WITH SUCH SURENESS, REALISM, AND
SUCCESS WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED BY THE IVORIAN PEOPLE,
WHO PROFESS TRUE AND DEEP FRIENDSHIP FOR THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE.

- --

PLEASE ACCORD US THE HONOR AND THE PLEASURE OF COMING TO
VISIT US AT ABIDJAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE SINCERELY
HOPE THAT YOU WILL.

VERY HIGH AND FRIENDLY CONSIDERATION. FELIX HOUPHOUET-
BOIGNY. END TEXT.

3. WHITE HOUSE HAS NO PLANS TO RELEASE ABOVE TEXTS BUT
HAS NO OBJECTION TO GOIC DOING SO. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE214284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/W:CLDARIS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973102/aaaaaavn.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOUPHOUET VISIT: EXCHANGE OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES
TAGS: OVIP, IV, (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX)
To: ABIDJAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005